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CANNON AN ABSOLUTE RULER.

How the Functions of the Lower House of Congress are Usurped by its Speaker.

Rumors of how the speaker rules the lower house of Congress have been frequent during the present year, with its ever-increasing roll of important legislation. In the following article, contributed to the New York Times, a Washington correspondent seeks to show to just what extent this bossism has extended:

The Fifty-ninth Congress has been unique in its production of legislation by the speaker against the wishes of a majority of the House. The despotism of the machine is an old story, but this session has out-Heroded Herod. In times past it has dragged through occasional legislation, but never before has there been a session in which practically all the important legislation was enacted in flat defiance of the majority. When the railroad-rate rule was jammed through the House, it marked the culminating point in the autocracy of Speaker Cannon and the House machine.

There has been much uninformed talk about legislative usurpation, about one-man power, about the President's erecting himself into a czar. How baseless it is has been shown in the President's defeat on the question of a broad court review, after he had put forth more strenuous efforts than probably were ever made before by an executive to obtain from Congress what he wanted.

But there is one-man power in Washington, and it is in the speaker's room. That officer wields more absolute, unfettered power than any other in the world. But never before has a speaker used this power consistently throughout a session to enact legislation to which a majority of the House was violently opposed. It began with the Statehood bill, which was favored by so small a minority that its earnest advocates could have been whittled down to the speaker himself and two or three others, but which the protesting House was compelled to pass. It culminated with the passage of the railway-rate rule, to which a large majority of the House was unquestionably opposed.

If the people of the country really understood what was going on in the House of Representatives, it would become a great political issue. Instead, it attracts little attention. What it means is the abolition of the House of Representatives as a legislative body.

The framers of the government projected a system in which there should be an executive branch, a judicial branch, and a two-chambered legislative branch. There is still a two-chambered legislative branch, but it no longer consists of the Senate and the House; it consists of the Senate and the speaker. The House has been reduced to absolute nonentity.

How this has come about is not generally understood. The founder of the system, Thomas B. Reed, never contemplated the lengths to which it has gone. They are the evolution of the system. The general supposition is that the speaker, being a strong man, rules the representatives, who are weak men, by reason of his strength. That is not the fact.

Under our system of government, a representative does not take his seat until thirteen months after he is elected. He goes to Washington with the nominating convention which will choose his successor perhaps eight or nine months away. In those eight months he has to "make good" with his constituents, who are not inclined to be put off with excuses. He swells around for about a week after his arrival, counting on the great deeds he is going to do. Then his air-castles crash.

He finds that, under the rules of the House, his political life is in the hands of the machine—the speaker and the committee on rules. None of the bills which his constituents want passed has the ghost of a chance unless he is good. The machine, under the rules, controls absolutely all the legislation which is to be put through, and not

the smallest bill for deepening a creek, erecting a bridge, buying a post-office site, or even giving a pension to a veteran, can be put through unless the machine is willing.

It then becomes a matter of political life or death. No matter how strong a man may be, he must bow the knee to the machine, or he is dead politically. The machine almost literally holds every congressman by the throat, and no strength of character can prevail against it.

This system, which began under Reed, was perfected under Henderson, and has reached its climax under Cannon. On occasions when revolt has been threatened, the machine has met it with open bullying. For the most part, the machine prefers to conceal the iron hand in the velvet glove, but when revolt is threatened it is a different matter. Neither Reed nor Henderson ever went to the lengths in this direction that Cannon has gone.

Every day there is a pretense of "catching the speaker's eye." Men crowd around the desk and call for recognition, and the speaker recognizes first one and then another to move the passage of a bill. This is a mere sham. The men who are to be recognized have previously been agreed upon, and the speaker has before him a slip of paper containing their names and the order in which they are to be recognized. Very often it happens that he recognizes a man who is not in the House at all, and has not addressed him, having been detained for some reason after the arrangement was made. No man can be recognized who is not on that list, and to the speaker's room every morning go the supplicants for a place thereon. No man can get his name on that list who has not been subservient to the machine. Even if, by some miracle, he should get recognition, he would not get his bill through, or even considered, without the O. K. of the machine. How much chance an insurgent has can be seen from this.

In Washington, no observer of the evolution of this system accepts it with the easy complacency with which it is regarded in the country at large. There it is plainly seen that the House of Representatives has ceased to exist. The only legislative body remaining is the Senate. The speaker alone conducts the legislation for the other branch. This is not hyperbole, but simple, matter-of-fact truth. Even the boss of a local machine must take other persons into account. One-man power in the United States exists only in the little back room of the House lobby.

Without a constitutional amendment a change has taken place in the American form of government. Such things are not unknown under our system. The founders of the government intended Presidents to be elected, not by the people, but by an electoral college. No constitutional amendment ever abolished the electoral college; the change in our system was effected without that and under old forms.

So it appears to those who have watched the system unfold itself day by day that the House of Representatives has gone out of existence as a legislative body on all important questions, and that without any constitutional amendment. The idea of checks and balances still remains, but the checks and balances once entrusted to the House are now entirely in the hands of the speaker. He is the lower branch of Congress, not the House.

Copper production at the two Douglas smelters for the month of July will aggregate about the same as during the month of June. At the Calumet & Arizona the production is estimated at about 4,000,000 pounds, an increase of about 200,000 pounds over June, while at the Copper Queen the output is not so large as it was in June, being estimated at about 7,700,000 pounds.

The outlook for August for both smelters is that they will exceed their output for this month on account of the added improvements which have been completed at both.—Tombstone Prospector.

Zinc Production Doubled.

The production of zinc in the year 1905 amounted to 203,849 short tons, according to a report prepared by Mr. Charles Kirchhoff and published by the United States Geological Survey. This is an increase of 17,147 short tons over the production of 1904. The production of zinc has more than doubled since 1897, when it amounted to 99,980 tons.

The principal increase in production has taken place in the eastern and southern states. In 1904 the Graselli Chemical Company in West Virginia built a new plant, which had its first full year of operation in 1905.

In Kansas no new plants were started in 1905, but those which opened in 1904 had a full year's production. These included the Caney Zinc Company at Caney, which enlarged further to ten blocks in 1905, the Chanute Zinc Company at Chanute, and the Cockerill Zinc Company at Altoona. The Granby Company made a larger product, having added a fifth block. Two Zellweger mechanical roasting furnaces are building. The Prime Western and the Lanyon Zinc Company each added one block, and the United Zinc and Chemical Company is building two blocks and will soon add two more. Construction was started during 1905 on the works of Hegeler Brothers, at Danville, Ill., and by the Mineral Point Zinc Company, at Depue, Ill. The New Jersey Zinc Company which has four furnaces at Palmerton, Pa., is enlarging its plant with the ultimate object of having ten furnaces of the Convers-De Saulles type and two furnaces of the Siemens regenerative type.

In the Colorado desert of California and Arizona, travelers notice large areas covered with a mosaic-like pavement of rounded, polished pebbles, there being few large stones and scarcely any sand among them. These areas glisten in the sunlight and at a little distance may be mistaken for water. - W. P. Blake offers the following solution to account for the occurrence of these mosaic mesas: "It appears certain that the surface-sheet of pebbles, and in many localities of small fragments of rock and bit of fossil silicified wood, is the result of an accumulation by the gradual removal, by the wind, of sand, silt or finer materials from around and below the pebbles, undermining them, removing their support, and permitting them to fall to a lower level, where they accumulate by concentration until the whole surface is closely covered by fragments too large and heavy to be moved away by the wind. Such a deposit of pebbles or fragments may thus represent all that were originally distributed through several feet of thickness of sand and lighter alluvions. In this way there may be a removal of a large amount of fine materials from the general surface of a region, lowering its level, until, by the complete covering and protection of the surface by the concentration of the heavier fragments, eolian denudation is arrested, and the further lowering of the surface is stopped."

Occasionally in blast furnaces the tap hole becomes clogged with solidified iron. As this may lead to explosions, overflow and other troubles, a quick remedy is required. A powerful electric current acts too slowly in clearing out the stopped up tap hole, but a blast of oxygen has recently been applied with satisfactory results. At first a flame of oxygen and hydrogen is blown against the plug of iron until the temperature reaches a high point. Then the hydrogen is withdrawn as the heat increases, until only a blast of pure oxygen under great pressure remains. This swiftly burns the iron, at the same time keeping the hole free from the products of the combustion. A solid block of iron 16 inches thick can thus be penetrated in one or two minutes.—Mining World.

The Arizona Commercial Copper company is prosecuting development work on the Copper Hill and Black Hawk mines with the usual force, and with very satisfactory results.

The several levels of the Copper Hill are looking exceedingly well, and especially the east drift on the 3d level, which is in a fine body of carbonate ore. The work of opening the seventh and eighth levels has begun. The development of the east drift on the 500 foot level of the Black Hawk mine for the past two weeks has been very interesting and the improvement steady, and Pat Rose, mine superintendent, informs us that today this drift looks better than at any time since it was started, showing a seam of high grade carbonate and glance ore a foot wide and with other ore of a fair grade in the face. Samples of carbonate and glance ore brought to this office during the past week will assay 25 to 30 per cent copper. It is the intention of the management to start a crosscut from the end of this drift within a few days, which is expected to show the ore body up much larger. Grading for the Arizona Commercial railroad is progressing, and about two miles of grade has been completed. The heavy rain storms of the past week have damaged the grade slightly and washed out the wagon road in Copper gulch.—Silver Belt.

Chalchihuitl, a name celebrated in Mexican archaeology, was applied to certain green stones capable of high polish, which were carved into various ornamental forms, and very highly valued. There has been much mystery and much discussion as to what this precious material really was, and whence it was obtained. It seems evident that several mines were included under this name—among them a green quartz or prase, some of the deeper green varieties of tealco or Mexican onyx (so called), and probably turquoise; but the precious chalchihuitl has now been proved to be jadeite, a stone which has possessed a singular charm for many aboriginal peoples in widely separated parts of the globe, but which, for some reason, has not so much attracted the notice or the taste of the historic races.—Mining & Scientific Press.

The production of the Old Dominion mine for July was slightly in excess of 3,000,000 pounds of blister copper, which while not as large as in some previous months, represents a larger percentage produced from the company's own mines. Only three furnaces were in blast during a large part of the month. Four furnaces are now running. Progress of shaft sinking and development work has been very satisfactory, and the production of ore has materially increased. An important work has been restoring the 14th level and the development of the sulphide vein on that level has been resumed. The improved condition of the mine is reflected in the price of Old Dominion stock on the Boston exchange, which has advanced to 41.—Silver Belt.

The minerals mined as ores of lithium are amblygonite, lepidolite and spodumene. Amblygonite has been found in appreciable quantities only near Pala, San Diego county Cal. This is the only section in the county where lepidolite of lithia mica, is produced commercially. The spodumene mines are situated in Pennington county, S. D. Lithia ores are employed principally in the manufacture of carbonate of lithium, which is utilized in the solid form and in solution for medicinal purposes, especially for making lithia waters. Lithium salts are used also to a small extent in the manufacture of compounds for the production of colored fire. The element tinges a flame with a beautiful shade of red.—Mining World.

J. K. McCarthy went to Phoenix Thursday to receive his portion of the first payment on the Bryan group. We congratulate him and we also congratulate Mrs. Kinney. They have earned and deserve the neat little fortune they are to receive for the Bryan. The total will be \$5,000 or \$47,500 each. That will keep the wolf from their door for some time.—Florence Blade.

The Power of the Traffic Manager.

Somebody has said that the men who make railroad rates hold the well-being of the United States in the hollow of their hands. That they can build up and tear down industries, populate and devastate communities, make business enterprise flourish or reduce it to ignominious failure as best suits their purposes—these are the powers that have been attributed to them in the discussion which during the past few months has undertaken to set before the country the intricate relations between our people and the agencies that furnish them transportation. But what manner of men these are, and how they really apply their power day by day, no one has told.

The railroad traffic manager must be to the manner born in his profession; but all the natural equipment in the world is of no use to him without the schooling of hard experience, the higher training of well-sustained responsibility. The skill his task requires might be compared with that of the great physician, whose diagnosis is the result of so many subtle, instinctive turns of judgement that he could not explain its process. The two men select their method of treatment and apply their remedies with the same sureness and precision.—From "The Traffic Manager and the Shipper," by Philip S. Fiske, in the American Monthly Review of Reviews for August.

The next term of the Tempe Normal school will begin Monday, September 10th, and from indications the attendance will greatly exceed all previous years. Many improvements have been made in the school that will increase its capacity and add to the comfort of the students. The dormitories have been improved and made as comfortable as possible and rooms and board are furnished for \$16.50 per month, which includes electric light, steam heat, running water in rooms, baths, use of piano, etc. Arrangements can be made for rental of houses in Tempe, application to be made to Andrew Mielson, R. A. Windes or A. B. Tomlinson. Railroad companies grant half fare rates to all students between home and school. Address all communications relating to entrance to Normal school, railroad rates, catalogues, etc., to A. J. M. the principal, Tempe, Arizona.

A process has recently been patented for the production of fuel from peat by means of electric current. It consists in exposing the peat, previously freed from water, to the effect of an alternating current of 200 volts and 1,200 amperes per ton of solid material contained in the peat, for certain periods. The currents is so regulated that a heat above 100 degrees C. is avoided.—Denver Mining Reporter.

Summer Excursion Rates to California

The excursion rates to California are now on every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday for the months of June, July and August. The rate from Kingman to Los Angeles is 22¢; Kingman to San Diego, 33¢.

Do It To-day.

The time-worn injunction, "Never put off 'till tomorrow what you can do today," is now generally presented in this form: "Do it today!" That is the terse advice we want to give you about that hacking cough or demoralizing cold with which you have been struggling for several days, perhaps weeks. Take some reliable remedy for it today—and let that remedy be Dr. Boschee's German Syrup, which has been in use for over thirty-five years. A few doses of it will undoubtedly relieve your cough or cold, and its continued use for a few days will cure you completely. No matter how deep seated your cough, even if dread consumption has attacked your lungs, German Syrup will surely effect a cure—as it has done before in thousands of apparently hopeless cases of lung trouble. New trial bottle, 25c.; regular size, 75c. At all druggists.

Eggs, fresh from our hennery, at Kingman Meat Market.